

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of treating androgenic alopecia comprising administering to a person in need of such treatment a 5 α -reductase 2 inhibitor in a dosage amount under 5.0 mgs/day.

2. The method of Claim 1 wherein the dosage amount is from about 0.01 to 3.0 mgs/day.

3. The method of Claim 1 wherein the dosage amount is from about 0.05 to 1.0 mg/day.

4. The method of Claim 1 wherein the dosage amount is about 0.05 mg/day.

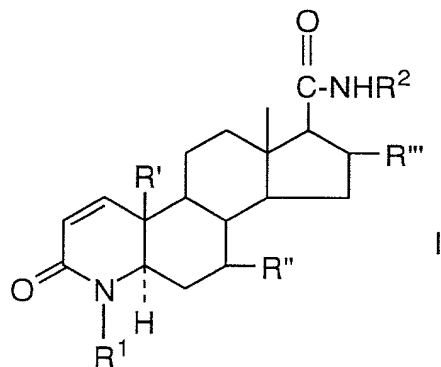
5. The method of Claim 1 wherein the dosage amount is about 0.2 mgs/day.

6. The method of Claim 1 wherein the androgenic alopecia is male pattern baldness.

7. The method of Claim 1 wherein the 5 α -reductase 2 inhibitor is administered orally.

8. The method of Claim 1 wherein the 5 α -reductase 2 inhibitor is administered topically.

9. The method of Claim 1 wherein the 5 α -reductase 2 inhibitor has the structural formula I



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof wherein:

R¹ is hydrogen, methyl or ethyl;

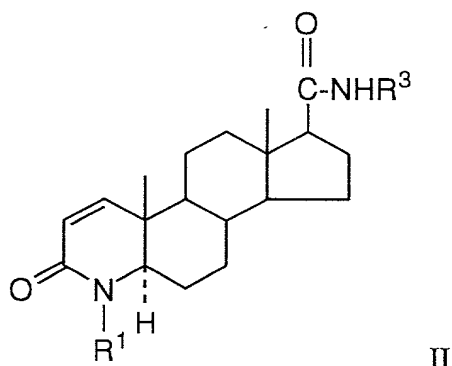
R² is a hydrocarbon radical selected from straight and branched chain alkyl of from 1-12 carbons or monocyclic aryl optionally containing 1 or more lower alkyl substituents of from 1-2 carbon atoms and/or 1 or more halogen (Cl, F or Br) substituents;

R' is hydrogen or methyl;

R'' is hydrogen or β -methyl; and

R''' is hydrogen, α -methyl or β -methyl.

10. The method of Claim 1 wherein the 5α -reductase 2 inhibitor has the structural formula II



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof wherein

R¹ is hydrogen, or methyl; and

R³ is branched chain alkyl of from 4-8 carbons.

11. A method of treating androgenic alopecia comprising administering to a person in need of such treatment 17β -(N-tert-butylcarbamoyl)-4-aza- 5α -androst-1-ene-3-one in a dosage amount under 5.0 mgs/day.

12. The method of Claim 11 wherein the androgenic alopecia is male pattern baldness.

13. The method of Claim 11 wherein the dosage amount is from about 0.01 to 3.0 mgs/day.

14. The method of Claim 11 wherein the dosage amount is from about 0.05 to 1.0 mg/day.

15. The method of Claim 11 wherein the dosage amount is about 0.05 mg/day.

16. The method of Claim 11 wherein the dosage amount is about 0.2 mg/day.

17. The method of Claim 11 wherein the 17β -(N-tert-butylcarbamoyl)-4-aza- 5α -androst-1-ene-3-one is administered topically.

18. The method of Claim 11 wherein the 17β -(N-tert-butylcarbamoyl)-4-aza- 5α -androst-1-ene-3-one is administered orally.

19. The method of Claim 18 wherein the dosage amount is about 0.2 mg/day.

20. The method of Claim 18 wherein the dosage amount is about 0.05 mg/day.

21. A method of arresting and reversing androgenic alopecia comprising administering to a person in need of such treatment a 5α -reductase 2 inhibitor in a dosage amount under 5.0 mgs/day.

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22. A method of lowering the level of 5α -dihydrotestosterone in human scalp comprising administering to a person in need of such treatment a 5α -reductase 2 inhibitor in a dosage amount under 5.0 mgs/day.

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23. The method of Claim 22 wherein the dosage amount is from about 0.01 to 3.0 mgs/day.

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24. The method of Claim 22 wherein the dosage amount is from about 0.05 to 1.0 mg/day.

25. The method of Claim 22 wherein the dosage amount is about 0.05 mg/day.

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26. The method of Claim 22 wherein the dosage amount is about 0.2 mg/day.

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27. The method of Claim 22 wherein the dosage amount is about 1.0 mg/day.

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